

to study these propositions and report upon them. Such interpretations of fact whether they lead to new names or not are in a very different category from mere name changing. Upon this score Dr. House's new book will receive the respectful attention which its evident care and scholarship entitle it.

There can, of course, be nothing but praise for the undertaking—which has lain dormant since the flora of John Torrey in 1843. It is a tremendous piece of work to even list all the plants found in such a large and ecologically diversified state as New York. The author has, in addition to the State Herbarium, relied on printed lists or local floras, among them the reviewer's "Flora of the Vicinity of New York." In such a large book it would be incredible if some errors had not crept in. Of *Teucrium canadense* he says: "Recorded by Taylor as occasional on Long Island." I recorded it from Staten Island. And there are others. But to cite such here would be both useless and tend to create the impression that I am harping upon very thin strings. Actually the new work inspires admiration for its scope and intent, if a considerable amount of misgiving over some of its details. Its defects are mostly attributable to the causes outlined above, and from these Dr. House is no more immune than any of us.

NORMAN TAYLOR.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

SHRUBS OF INDIANA

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This book is a sequel to the author's *Trees of Indiana*, which it resembles in size and binding as well as in plan and arrangement. It is well bound in cloth, printed on good paper and the typography is excellent. In these respects it is superior to the majority of state reports. 143 species are described as native to the state and two others,—*Rosa Eglantheria* and *Lonicera japonica*,—as naturalized. Some fifty other species are mentioned as having been reported from the state but are excluded because the author has been unable to verify their occurrence or because

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they are regarded as escapes that have not become naturalized. One of these, *Berberis vulgaris*, is referred to as having frequently escaped, but due to the effort being made to exterminate it "this shrub will not become a member of our state."

The treatment of species is conservative, forms that intergrade are considered as one, the many opportunities to subdivide species being ignored. For example a special study was made of the poison ivy,—“the study suggests that the low erect forms are branches of underground stems; that the thick-leaved forms are always found in places exposed to heavy winds and direct sunlight; and the hairy-fruited forms are rare and are distributed throughout our area, and have no other character to distinguish them.” The sand cherry, *Prunus pumila*, referred to as not well understood, is taken to include *Prunus cuneata* *P. susquehanae*, which have been described from the state.

The nomenclature followed is that of the International or Vienna Code. Where the name used differs from that in either the 7th edition of Gray's Manual or the 2nd edition of Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora, the other names are given, otherwise synonyms are omitted. In most cases the only common name used is that found in Standardized Plant Names, where plants are not listed in this, the name that seems most commonly used is given, with the idea that each plant should be known by but one common name. The descriptions are clear and complete for each species, the distribution throughout the state is given in detail, while under the head of remarks are such items as the uses of the shrub in ornamental planting, its real or reputed medicinal value, questions of variation or habitat and the need of conservation.

There is a key to all the genera, under each of these is a key to the species. The keys are based chiefly on the leaf and twig characters. The book is illustrated with full page plates of each species made from photographs of herbarium specimens. The specimens have been so carefully prepared that in most cases the use of fresh material would have added nothing in value. Plant lovers and users of Indiana are to be congratulated on having a book of this nature so well done in every respect.

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